



**2021-2022**

## **LEA FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

Birmingham City Schools' mission is to guide all scholars to achieve excellence in a safe, secure, and nurturing environment. In order to heighten student academic achievement and the whole child, including social and emotional well-being, this plan explains how the core values of Birmingham City Schools (BCS) reinforce the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family and community engagement. It describes Birmingham City School's commitment to build capacity and engage families in the education and well-being of their children and equip Title I Schools to succeed in reaching the district and student academic achievement goals.

**Build Capacity of Family and Staff-** Through increased communication efforts and channels, BCS will continue to build school and parent capacity for various levels of family engagement by using all available methods of communication between the school, families, and community partners. BCS will also build capacity for strong family engagement to ensure effective involvement of family members and the community as equal partners, and to improve student achievement through district-wide and local school activities and programs.

**Supporting Student Success-** The district will support student success in all Title I Schools by providing assistance to parents and family members that aid them in understanding state and district academic information and providing support services connected to their children's learning wellness.

**Communicating Effectively-** Each school hosts monthly parent workshops or seminars to fit the needs of their parents and families. In addition to in-person sessions, schools provide an opportunity to attend meetings via Zoom in a remote setting. The district also provides monthly Parent Power Sessions that inform and promote parent knowledge of student academic achievement as well as building parent and family skills. Each school also has a website that displays information about the local school. We encourage everyone to frequently visit each school's website that is designed to keep families and the community abreast of the academic calendar, current events, and activities.

**Advocate for Every Child-** Parents and families are encouraged to be advocates for all scholars and actively engage in monthly parent meetings at the local school and district level. Local schools operate Parent Leadership Councils and the district engages an active Parent Advisory Board designed to provide constructive input and feedback from a parental perspective which includes helping develop recommendations on how to continually improve Birmingham City Schools particularly in regard to student success and parental engagement.

**Sharing Power-** BCS is committed to providing platforms for all stakeholders to participate, engage, and partner with schools through organizing events, volunteering, membership in PTA/PTSA/PTO, and networking.

**Collaborating with the Community-** BCS has monthly partner meetings. The committed work of each partnership in the district is aligned, focused, and based on set priorities that build system-wide capacity. During these meetings, partners are given system updates and opportunities to share how their organization influences students.

**Welcoming all Families** - BCS is committed to having a welcoming environment for all families. Families are encouraged to visit your scholar's school(s) and partner with us to strengthen the mission of parent and family engagement for higher academic achievement and the social and emotional well-being of all children.

**Staff-** BCS will conduct yearly training for principals to learn and discuss strategies to strengthen family engagement and build capacity with families and the community. BCS staff will be trained on how to effectively and efficiently communicate with parents, families, and the community.

**Collaboration Supports:**

- LEA Parent Leadership Council
- School-based Volunteer trainings
- School-based Parent Leadership Representatives
- School PTA, PTO, and PTSA Organizations
- Booster & Student Support Groups
- District level and school-based Focus Groups
- District level open discussion forums
- BCS Community Partners
- Parent Surveys
- School-site Family and Community Engagement Teams

**Distribution of the Plan** - Under Title I, Part A, Section 1116 of Every Child Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that each school served under Title I, Part A, distribute to parents and family members of participating children, a written, district and school-level parent and family engagement plan and school-parent compact. The Birmingham City Schools Parent Plan will be distributed by each local school, provided during parent meetings, and can be found on the district website.

**Forums for Parent Participation** - Each school will implement at least two forums per year where parents can express their suggestions and concerns. Alternative communication methods will be provided for those parents who are unable to attend these forums. Parents are encouraged to participate in focus groups, Parent Leadership Council meetings and attend district monthly meetings.

**Adoption** - This LEA Family and Community Engagement Plan has been developed with and agreed on by parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at Title I Parent meetings and district personnel at committee meetings.

*This plan has been adopted by the Title I Parent Advisory Council and will be in effect for the 2021-2022 academic year. The school district will distribute this plan to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 30, 2021.*

  
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Superintendent

June 30, 2021

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Date